

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



205176

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
POLLUTION REPORT**

Date: Wednesday, January 07, 2004

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Subject: Final
Garfield Alloys Fire
4878 Chaincraft Road, Garfield Heights, OH

POLREP No.:	3	Site #:	593
Reporting Period:	12/31/2003 - 1/05/2004	D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Inc Date:	12/29/2003	Response Type:	Emergency
Completion Date:	1/5/2004	NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:		Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #:	

Site Description

Site Description

The Garfield Alloys site was a massive fire that engulfed a magnesium recycling facility. The facility (Garfield Alloys, Inc.) is located at 4878 Chaincraft Road, Garfield Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The property encompasses 4 buildings and is 16 acres in size. The site is bordered to the north by Norfolk Western Rail Road Line; to the west by Chaincraft Road; and to the south by Mill Creek. The facility processes and recycles magnesium into ingots for resale.

Background

The fire started at approximately 1500 hours on December 29, 2003. The majority of the fire was extinguished by December 31, 2003. The Garfield Heights Fire Department responded to this incident in coordination with Cuyahoga County Emergency Services, Ohio EPA, U.S. EPA, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cleveland Department of Public Health, Ohio Department of Health, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and numerous support Fire Departments. It is estimated that approximately 1/3 of the site had burned.

Current Activities

1. Current Situation.

U.S. EPA demobilized from the site on December 31, 2003 and completed its follow-up actions on January 5, 2004. Ohio EPA continues to monitor clean-up and other activities on-site. On-going environmental issues include water run-off, solid waste removal, and compressed gas cylinder removal.

1. Site Activities

On January 1-2, 2004, U.S. EPA kept in contact with Ohio EPA's On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to insure that run-off water from the site was being contained. Garfield Alloys, Inc. secured contractor services from AST, Inc. to secure hazards on site and collect & contain run-off water flowing from the impacted areas. Previous analytical results from run-off water indicated the presence of elevated levels of lead, copper, and zinc. Run-off water was discharging to Mill Creek, a tributary to the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. Low-level ammonia emissions were expected to be present and confirmed through air monitoring.

On January 5, 2004, U.S. EPA participated in a series of meetings with site responders and potentially responsible parties. It was determined that Ohio EPA and the Garfield Heights Fire Department will continue to oversee site actions to insure environmental compliance and safe work practices. Continued actions include: develop and implement a site characterization plan; remove compressed gas cylinders; conduct air monitoring for ammonia; remove debris; and conduct water sampling (ammonia, copper, zinc, lead, pH, and hardness), treatment and/or disposal.

Planned Removal Actions

None (by U.S. EPA).

Next Steps

Consolidate and finalize all site data.

Key Issues

The Ohio State Fire Marshall determined that the cause of the fire was an accident. Opening a drum of magnesium with a metal grinder was what ignited the fire.

Two neighboring businesses were also heavily damaged by the fire.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
RST/START	\$0.00	\$17,000.00	(\$17,000.00)	0.00%
REAC	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	(\$7,000.00)	0.00%
Intramural Costs				
USEPA - Direct (Region, HQ)	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	(\$6,000.00)	0.00%
USEPA - InDirect	\$0.00	\$11,100.00	(\$11,100.00)	0.00%
Total Site Costs	\$0.00	\$41,100.00	(\$41,100.00)	0.00%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

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